

FY 2004 Nevada BLM Minerals Conference - Summary & Progress Table

Categories	Concerns	Proposed Solutions	Status
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Note: Numerical scheme developed for FY 2003 BLM Nevada Minerals Workshops kept in this document for easy reference and to show focus for FY 2004.

1.0 Surface Management (43 CFR 3809)			
1.1 Surface Management, General			
1.1.1 Management Policies	1.1.1.2 (NMA, NDEP) Program Inconsistencies between Districts on implementation of policy and regulations.	1.1.1.2.3 (NSF RAC) BLM should review existing IM's, handbooks and manuals, modify as needed and re-implement (reissue) to each FO.	1.1.1.2.3 BLM headquarters and Nevada State Office are updating guidance, as follows: - IM WO-2003-082, Change 1, Reclamation Cost Estimates for Notices and Plans of Operations (.pdf) - IM NV-2004-031, Ecological Risk Assessment Guidelines for Open Pit Mine Lakes in Nevada (.pdf) - Attachment 1 - Table of References (.pdf) - Attachment 2 - Benchmark Values (.pdf) - IM NV-2004-064, Nevada Bureau of Land Management Water Resource Data and Analysis Policy for Mining Activities (.htm) (.jpg) - IM NV-2004-065, Nevada Bureau of Land Management Reclamation/Closure Policy for Hardrock Mining Activities (.htm) (.jpg) - Bureau-wide self assessment process initiated. States and field offices submitted self assessments to BLM Headquarters for review and evaluation. Awaiting Headquarters evaluation results. - FY 2004 Nevada Technical Program Review (TPR) in planning phase (Lead: L Steward).
1.2 Surface Management, Notices			
1.2.4 Expired Notices	1.2.4.1 (BLM/WO-AWP) Use FY 2004 One-Time funding to completed inspections of expired notices.	1.2.4.1 Use ECO contracting or other services or employees to complete work using GPS & GIS technology.	1.2.4.1 Completed. NSO and Battle Mountain Field Office developed GPS/GIS data dictionary and guidance for statewide use (see IM NV-2004-054 (.pdf)). Contractors and field office personnel are currently engaged in the inspection process for 1,700 cases statewide.
1.2.5 Inadequate Filings, Notices & Plans of Operations	1.2.5.1 (BLM - LVFO) LVFO Getting grossly inadequate plan and notice document filings, submissions from small – medium operators.	1.2.5.1 Need guidance for resolution.	1.2.5.1 Developing new plan of operations format, reclamation cost estimate format, and guidance document. Team formed in Las Vegas Field Office in conjunction with NDEP. - Reclamation cost estimate format revision completed. - Working with NDEP on a new plan of operations format/permit application (i.e., update to IM NV-2002-

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			066 (.pdf)
1.3 Surface Management, Plans of Operation			
1.3.1 Plan Approval	1.3.1 (NDEP) Three-way Coordination Meetings (BLM, NDEP, Operator).	1.3.1.1.4 (11. NDEP) Need to update our contact project list with current staff for both agencies	1.3.1.1.4 Completed.
	1.3.1.3 (2. NDEP) Operators not providing both agencies the same information.	1.3.1.3 (2. NDEP) When BLM receives changes or updates to reclamation plan or Plan of operations, ensure NDEP has been copied. If not direct the operator to provide NDEP a copy (NAC 519A.160) for its concurrent review, give NDEP a call or email and inform us BLM has received changes.	1.3.1.3 Continues as on-going process. Proposed changes have been integrated into process, including: - Plan of Operations/Modifications Kick-off Meeting Agenda Template (DRAFT) (.doc)
	1.3.1.6 (5. NDEP) Revised 3809 regulations include additional information in the Plan of operations and reclamation plan that may also be a requirement for the regulation and closure branches.	1.3.1.6.1 (NDEP) NDEP (closure and regulation branch) and BLM need to work together to develop guidance to streamline and prevent duplication.	1.3.1.6.1 Working with NDEP and NaMA to develop process fluids stabilization guidance. Also, updating a joint application form.
		1.3.1.6.2 (7. NDEP) Improve joint approval of reclamation plans and bond costs estimates approved for existing operations.	1.3.1.6.2 Plan of Operations/Modifications Kick-off Meeting Agenda Template (DRAFT) (.doc)
1.4 NEPA Analysis			
1.4.1 Quality of NEPA Analysis	1.4.1.4 Geochemical Models. (GBMW) Geochemical models are uncalibrated and unvalidated.	1.4.1.4.4 (GBMW) Use bonds and trust funds for uncertainty.	1.4.1.4.4 BLM is beginning to use trust funds. Technical working group selected.
1.4.2 Streamlining NEPA Process	1.4.2.7 (NSF RAC) Streamlining Meeting	1.4.2.7 (BLM - Elko) Streamlining Meeting. NMA, BLM, NDEP meeting in early Spring on streamlining efforts and reclamation bonding cost workshop.	1.4.2.7 NEPA process review team selected. Bonding workshop on hold pending outcome of standardized unit costs.
	1.4.2.15 Native American Consultation. (NMA) The Native American consultation process is not working well, taking too long.	1.4.2.15.1 (NMA) Form a panel to search for a new and more effective, shorter process.	1.4.2.15.1 On-going effort; pending outcome of coordination efforts for FY 2004 fluid minerals leasing and RMP processes. Also, awaiting clarification following current coordination efforts with the NBSO, Division of Natural Resources, Lands and Planning (NV-930).
1.5 Bonding			
1.5.1 Reclamation Bonding, General	1.5.1.3 (17. NDEP) Some Districts use one decision letter that approves	1.5.1.3 (BLM - Elko) Develop standard language for plan approval, subject to bond adjudication and	1.5.1.3 Pending development of draft decision letter template. (Tentative due date for draft: July 2, 2004)

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	the Plan of Operations, determines the bond amount, and establishes a timeframe to establish a bond. Others require multiple decision letters before operations may begin.	acceptance.	
1.5.3 Bond Adjudication	1.5.3.1 (21. NDEP; NMA) Bond adjudication take a long time and hold up operations		1.5.3.1 Improvement efforts to date: - Established NSO Bond Team. - Reviewing bond adjudication process to determine where streamlining is appropriate. - Developed bond training for external customers to reduce NSO requests for more information. - Held bond adjudication training (5/20/2004) for Placer Dome <i>et al.</i>
1.5.4 Bond Instruments	1.5.4.2 Long-Term Trust Funds. (GBMW) Does the BLM have a means for determining what is a need?	1.5.4.2.1 (GBMW) BLM should establish a standard for long-term bonding that all can look at. Coverage should include Heap seepage leach fields, pit lakes, and French drains.	1.5.4.2.1 Awaiting response following request for input from the Office of the Solicitor for appropriate policy language.
1.5.5 Reclamation Cost Estimates	1.5.5.1 (NMA) Administration fee mechanism as applied to reclamation bond calculations is too high; there is uncertainty regarding additional (national, regional) administrative fees; and Contingency fees.	1.5.5.1.3 (BLM – Elko) NV-920 should work with NDEP to schedule (late Summer) a Joint BLM, NDEP, Industry Bond Cost Workshop . Hydrologist involvement required. Invite Environmental Community;	1.5.5.1.3 Temporarily postponed until further development of standardized unit costs. Established a working group composed of BLM, NDEP, and NvMA.
		1.5.5.1.6 NV-920 make available a spreadsheet for grading/regrading volumes [State Formula ; Calculation instructions and/or checklist should include what BLM expects to see].	1.5.5.1.6 Will be included in the SUC spreadsheets.
		1.5.5.1.9.1 (BLM - Elko) NV-920 develop Master Schedule with State based on a 3-year review cycle	1.5.5.1.9.1 Being developed jointly by BLM and NDEP.
	1.5.5.6 (BLM - Elko) Drill Hole Plug regulations require plugging of all drill plugging is not addressed in new 3809 Nevada BLM policy (IM NV-2002-06 requirements. FOs attending Elko Workshop change the NV BLM policy.		1.5.5.6 (BLM - Elko) Drill Hole Plugging. Where holes are being plugged as-they-go, bond for last or deepest hole (1,000 – 3,000 feet). If not, bond for all holes. See IM WO-2003-082, Change 1 (.pdf) .
	1.5.5.10 Who is point of contact (POC) in NV-920 for reclamation	1.5.5.10 Check for or assign a POC in NV-920	1.5.5.10 Completed. Primary POC in the BLM Nevada State Office (NV-920) for reclamation cost

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	cost estimating?		estimation is Craig Smith, 775-861-6453; secondary POC is Larry Steward, 775-861-6575.
1.5.7 Compliance Inspections	1.5.7.1 (3. NDEP) Bond release inspections		1.5.7.1 (3. NDEP) Current policy is "When BLM receives request, notify NDEP and see if we can both attend."
1.6 Mine Closures			
1.6.7 Bond Collection	1.6.7.1 (9. NDEP) BLM has not moved forward with the scope of work and contract process on several bonds collected. We are losing the limited dollars to inflation and not addressing potential environmental concerns.	1.6.7.1.1 (NDEP) Once a bond forfeited to the BLM, need BLM to proceed with contract process and work with NDEP to establish priorities to develop the scope of work. Example: Paradise Peak facility.	1.6.7.1.1 Awaiting IBLA decision before we can initiate reclamation on Paradise Peak. Completed Olinghouse reclamation, Kinsley is about 70% completed. Golden Butte and Easy Junior will begin reclamation in 2004. Elder Creek demonstration project is scheduled for completion in 2004 and final reclamation in 2005.
4.0 Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)			
4.1 Coordination with NDOM	4.1.4 Funding (NMA)	4.1.4 (NMA) Strategic long-term coordination and funding for "on the ground" Nevada AML securing activities (i.e. Fencing, gating, backfilling). Currently year-to year.	4.1.4 On-going. Currently working on cultural resource clearances.
	4.1.5 Statewide programmatic EA/EIS (NMA)	4.1.5 (NMA) Need to look at the possibility of a programmatic EA/EIS for a statewide AML program (not just Clark County).	4.1.5 Completed. Current programmatic EA/EIS has statewide coverage.